

was in earnest and the hands of the administration would be strengthened in the future negotiations with them.

By the end of 1907 the Government had built no less than 544 miles of line and acquired 53 miles besides. As time went on and the construction policy proceeded with unabated vigor, the prospects for a favorable settlement with the Bell Company became all the while brighter. Less than a year ago a bargain was finally made, by which the entire Bell system within the Province was purchased at an average cost of \$143 per phone. Shortly before that, the Company had sold out to the Manitoba Government and had secured \$218 per phone.

In the meanwhile the work of reaching out into new parts of the Province proceeded rapidly and by the beginning of 1909 the government was operating close to 1,500 miles of telephone lines and making it pay so well that it was able as a New Year's present to announce a reduction in the rates which amounts on an average to about 25 per cent. The demand for extensions is coming from all sections. Especial encouragement is being given to rural lines. A low rate has been quoted for these of but \$15 per year, the stipulation being that there must be one phone for every mile. In some instances, so much is the privilege prized, farmers have paid for three phones in order to secure connection with their market town, which would enable them to market their products, so much more advantageously as well as prove a general source of convenience.

All this has taken place, let it be remembered in less than three years. What may we not expect in three years more?—Herald, Lethbridge, Alta.

### What Independents Have Done For West Elgin

The Bell Co. has taken some 10 or 15 years to secure 6 subscribers in West Lorne, while the Independents have 20 phones. The Bell subscribers pays \$20 for a limited service (no night and 2 hours on Sunday), and has free connection with 5 other phones. The Independent subscriber pays \$16 for a 24 hour service with 500 to 600 connections. While the fight was going on in Dutton, the Bell gave a continuous service; now it is being cut down.

In Wallacetown, the Bell secured a bonus of \$50 to pay for erecting 3 poles to carry the wires across the road. Since the Independents came in, the Bell has removed its instrument — but it has not repaid the bonus.

In Iona, the Independents came in before the Bell had secured the usual \$50 bonus, so it installed a phone, without receiving a bonus, and gives the best service and the lowest fees at this place. St. Thomas, Ont. Evening Journal.

### Notes

The Elgin, Ont., County Council, at a special meeting, passed a resolution asking the City of St. Thomas, to provide such regulations in any contract for telephone service they might make as would allow the rural lines to enter the city.

The Bell Telephone Co. has promised to try and complete a line from North Bay to the Soo, a distance of 200 miles, within the next two years.

DAUPHIN, MAN., town telephone system has now 214 phones in the exchange.

RIVERVIEW, MAN. The municipality intends to build a telephone system and charge \$21 a year for phones.

### Government Reduces Phone Rates

All telephones in Manitoba, after April 1st, will have benefit of the reduced rate that was brought down in the local legislature just lately, the definite announcement of which has been received with much satisfaction in Winnipeg and throughout the province. The following official schedule of rates will be in force.

Winnipeg:—

2 party line business, unlimited service . . . .	\$39.00
1 party line business, and two cents per outcall	25.00
Joint users' business, now \$25, reduced to . . . .	15.00
Single line, residence, unlimited service, now \$30, reduced to . . . . .	25.00
2 party line, residence, unlimited service, now \$24, reduced to . . . . .	18.00
1 party line, residence, and two cents per outcall	15.00
Joint users, residence, now \$15, reduced to . . . .	5.00
Extension rates in residences, wall or desk, now \$12, reduced to . . . . .	6.00

Brandon and Portage:—

2 party line business, unlimited service . . . .	\$27.00
1 party line business, and two cents per outcall	17.50
1 party line residence, unlimited service, now \$25, reduced to . . . . .	20.00
2 party line, residence, unlimited service, now \$21, reduced to . . . . .	15.00
1 party line residence, and two cents per outcall	12.50
Residence extension sets, desk or wall, now \$12, reduced to . . . . .	5.00

Small Towns:—

Single line business, unlimited service, now \$24, reduced to . . . . .	\$20.00
Single line, residence, unlimited service, now \$18, reduced to . . . . .	15.00

Farmers' Lines:—

Reduce present \$24 rate to . . . . .	\$20.00
Reduce present \$30 rate to . . . . .	25.00

### Independent Progress

The Canadian Independent Telephone Co., which took over the franchise in East Toronto before this municipality was united with the City, has installed a switchboard at East Toronto and has already connected up some local services and the indications are that a good sized exchange will be built up in this section of the city of Toronto. The main object, however, in getting the switchboard installed at once, was to furnish a connection for the line of the Scarborough Telephone Co., which has about 225 telephones operating in the township of Scarborough. The Scarborough Co. has developed very rapidly and its progress has been along good business lines. A trunk line has been built from the East Toronto switchboard to Malvern, where is the central office of the Scarborough Co. From Malvern, connection is made over the Independent lines of the Markham & Pickering Telephone Co. to Markham, then on through the lines of the Bethesda & Stouffville, the Uxbridge & Scott and the Mount Albert companies to within about thirty miles of Lindsay, where the Canadian Machine Telephone Co. is installing an Independent automatic plant. This will show that there is a chain of Independent lines reaching pretty well from Toronto to Lindsay, and Lindsay is only twenty-three miles from the Canadian Machine Co.'s Independent exchange at Peterboro. 1,500 Independent telephones can be reached from the Canadian Independent Co.'s switchboard at East Toronto, covering the distance indicated above. This will give some idea of the development in the Independent telephones that has taken place in this particular territory.